



The Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

March 12, 2026

Dear People of the Diocese of Western New York,

Across our diocese, our churches, parish halls, and rectories hold the prayers and ministries of generations. Caring for these sacred spaces is both a practical responsibility and a spiritual act of stewardship.

To support congregations in this work, the Diocese has recently formed a **Diocesan Property Committee**. The committee brings together clergy and lay leaders with experience in construction, architecture, building systems, evaluations, and parish leadership to assist congregations in caring for their buildings wisely, safely, and sustainably.

One of the committee's first initiatives is to offer **building safety and maintenance assessments** for congregations across the diocese. These visits are intended to be supportive and collaborative, helping identify potential maintenance concerns and offering practical guidance for long-term stewardship.

The Diocesan Trustees are covering the majority of the cost (estimated to be \$1,000) of this effort as an investment in the health of our congregations. To share in the program and help sustain it, congregations are asked to contribute a \$100 cost-sharing fee when requesting an assessment.

We warmly encourage congregations to take advantage of this opportunity. If your parish would like to schedule an assessment or learn more, please contact Maria Manocchio (Director of Finance 716.881.0660 ext. 118 or maria@episcopalwny.org). Please respond **by May 11** to register your parish for the program. Parishes will be prioritized in order of request.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luke Fodor".

The Rev. Luke Fodor

Chair, Diocesan Property Committee & President, Standing Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
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Property Committee Members: Bruce Davidson, Sharon Drennen, Paul Johnson (consultant), Robert Matson, Larry Mazuchowski, Maria Manocchio (staff), Bill Siener, and Lindsay Yoder